prepared by the
Crown Land Classification Committee

Manitoba

APPROVED BY
PROVINCIAL LAND
USE COMMITTEE

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PROVINCIAL CROWN LAND PLAN for the Catfish Creek Land Use Study Area

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

I. **BACKGROUND** 1

II. **PLAN INTRODUCTION** 2

III. **CROWN LAND PLANNING COMPONENTS** 2

A. Provincial Land and Resource Goals 3

B. Concepts 4

C. Management Considerations 6

IV. **PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES** 8

V. **CROWN LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS** 16

A. Proposed Joint Provincial Forest and Wildlife Management Area 18

B. Agriculture Dominant - Native Environment Lands Minor 20

C. Agriculture Dominant - Native Environment Lands Minor/ Development Reserve 21

D. Natural Lands 23

VI. **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS** 24

VII. **GENERAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION** 24

APPENDIX 1. Site Specific Crown Land Classifications 27

RECORD OF AMENDMENTS 28

MAPS

Map 1. Significant Fisheries Habitat 11

Map 2. Provincial Crown Land Plan; June, 1986 17

PROVINCIAL CROWN LAND PLAN for the Catfish Creek Land Use Study Area

I. BACKGROUND

In late 1981, Manitoba Natural Resources, Forestry initiated a proposal to extend the boundaries of the Belair Provincial Forest in order to secure Crown land for long-term forestry use. To assess this proposal, the Crown Land Classification Committee undertook an overall land use study for an area which encompassed the provincial forest proposal.

The purpose of the study was to develop and prepare a Crown Land Classification Plan and associated operational plan which rationalized and allocated the Crown land and natural resources of the area.

A study area adjacent to the Belair Provincial Forest, Traverse Bay and the Fort Alexander Indian Reserve; bordered by PTH #304, the main drain road and the CNR rail right-of-way in the LGD of Alexander was defined. This study area is about 37,000 acres in size. The majority of the area is Crown Land, with patented land minimal and excluded from consideration.[1]

Under normal circumstances, this plan document once approved would remain intact as the planning authority for Crown land. However, this plan document only encompasses a small portion of the LGD of Alexander. This LGD is part of the Winnipeg River Planning District for which a Provincial Crown land plan will be prepared in conjunction with the Planning Board's Development Plan. Therefore, it is recommended that approval of this plan:

1. *Be accepted as an approved Provincial Crown Land Plan which would be integrated at a later date with the Crown land plan to be prepared for the Winnipeg River Planning District, and*

2. *Be accepted as approval for addition to the Belair Provincial Forest of certain Crown lands identified as such in this plan by order-in-council and similarly for the establishment by order-in-council of a proposed Wildlife Management Area which is coincident with the additions to the provincial forest.*

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1 Crown Land Classification Committee, 1983. Catfish Creek Area Land Use, Terms-of-Reference. Province of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Typescript 11pp.

II. PLAN INTRODUCTION

The planning and classification of provincial Crown land in southern Manitoba is the responsibility of the Crown Land Classification Committee. This is an interdepartmental committee with representation from Manitoba Agriculture, Natural Resources and Municipal Affairs. The Crown Land Classification Committee reports to and receives its direction from the Provincial Land Use Committee of Cabinet.

The Provincial Land Use Committee of Cabinet approves all Provincial Crown Land Plans including plan amendments. The Crown Land Classification Committee prepares the plan and consults with local planning authorities respecting the plan and any plan amendment prior to review by the Provincial Land Use Committee of Cabinet.

The Provincial Crown land plan applies only to Provincial Crown land, the jurisdiction of which remains the responsibility of the Manitoba Government. The plan does not address Federal Crown, Indian Reserves or patented lands.

III. CROWN LAND PLANNING COMPONENTS

Crown land planning is a process which is continuous and ongoing. It involves the inventory of land and resources, evaluation of capability and suitability, identification of demands and needs, the establishment of goals and objectives and consultation with local planning authorities.

The goals and objectives (Section IV) of this Crown land plan were formulated after consideration of the Provincial Land Use Policies, in conjunction with Provincial departmental sector goals and objectives. The Crown land allocation procedure, which designated the Crown lands to achieve these goals, utilized accepted basic land use planning concepts along with current Crown land management and administrative directives and guidelines.

A. PROVINCIAL LAND AND RESOURCE GOALS

The Provincial Land Use Policies form the overall framework for this plan through the guidance and direction they prescribe in the management of the Province's land resource. These policy statements identify general provincial land and resource goals.

The Provincial land and resource goals are:

1) To protect the present and future agricultural industry, to protect land for present and future food production and to foster growth and development in the agricultural industry.

2) To provide for orderly rural development and to reduce rural servicing costs by consolidating development.

3) To safeguard scarce recreational and scenic resources and to protect existing and future recreation areas against overuse and degradation of recreational resources.

4) To recognize the importance of key shorelands and to protect from erosion the integrity and usefulness of this finite resource for recreation, watertable retention requirements, to ensure the viability of critical environments and to ensure the right of public access to major waterways and waterbodies.

5) To ensure that significant land and resource areas are not adversely affected by adjacent land uses.

6) To protect areas critical to the existence and maintenance of rare and endangered flora and fauna and to protect significant natural features which characterize a region and to identify, preserve and protect heritage resources.

7) To maintain and promote economic opportunities, ecological diversity, existing natural resource values and populations and aesthetic qualities of the rural landscape associated with renewable resource utilization.

8) To protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion, to maintain the natural capacity of streams to convey flood flows and to protect existing flood control works.

9) To maintain a high level of service and safety on the Province's highways, to protect the provincial investment in highways and to minimize disruption to local development in the future.

10) To protect aggregate and quarry mineral resources and to integrate these areas into the overall planning process.

This Crown land plan does not address provincial transportation, mineral or rural development goals. However, the plan will not preclude procurement of land for roads or limit mineral development or exploration subject to normal review and clearance procedures.

Aspects of schooling, local transportation systems, water supplies for domestic use, etc., are best addressed by local planning authorities more directly responsible to meeting local needs. Where potential conflicts in use occur or where Crown land allocations may impact on rural servicing costs, these issues will be addressed through consultation with the local authority (Council and/or Planning Board). Adjustments may then be made to the plan to address these concerns.

B. CONCEPTS

There are a number of basic concepts which are considered in the planning for Crown land. These concepts influence policy interpretation and Crown land allocation. Therefore, in optimizing Crown land and resource use and maintaining a high quality environment, the following apply:

1) The planning of Crown land is undertaken with consideration given to local needs. This is achieved through consultation with local planning authorities and recognition of the demands identified by government departments in servicing and consulting with their respective client groups.

2) Where there is significant public or private investment the affected Crown lands are classified and allocated to uses which are in concert with or do not jeopardize the investment in either an economic or physical sense.

3) Current management practices on all Crown land include: the application of multiple land use principles; the protection and improvement of the land's long-term productive capacity; the minimization of erosion and other destructive processes; and the utilization of the land consistent with its inherent capabilities with due consideration given to intensive management.

   a) The application of a multiple land use concept, that is, the utilization of Crown land and resources by competing and complementary users in both time and space require the identification of areas of compatible land uses wherever possible.

   b) The capability and suitability of the land and water resource base for development is considered.

   c) Classification of erosion-prone or relatively infertile lands to land uses which ultimately lead to a lower productivity of the land base is not acceptable.

d) In general, a minimum 25 percent of each quarter section is maintained in natural woody vegetation for a number of purposes.

4) Existing land uses and land use patterns are accounted for and considered.

5) In general, existing non-conforming uses on Crown land are accepted and will be allowed to continue until the existing commitment expires or a suitable alternative site for the use can be found.

6) Except where indicated, the plan will not preclude or limit future mineral extraction or exploration on Crown lands where approved by the Provincial Government.

7) The right of public access to Crown land and water for the purposes of sport angling, commercial fishing, hunting, trapping, outdoor recreation pursuits and general access is maintained in accordance with such acts, regulations and contracts in effect from time to time.

8) Future permanent development (i.e., residences, summer homes, cottages, commercial buildings, etc.) will be assessed for hazards such as flooding, erosion or bank instability. In general, development shall be subject to the following requirements, excepting under special economic and social circumstances.

   a) All permanent development shall be located on land above the 100-year flood level. When it is not possible to estimate the 100-year flood level due to insufficient hydrometric data for the waterway, then an elevation of 1.5 metres (5.0 feet) above the high water mark will be used.

   b) Land which may be eroded away within a period of 50 years shall be excluded from development unless it is demonstrated that the erosion process has been halted.

   c) Development shall not be permitted on lands subject to bank instability, landslides, or subsidence.

   d) Use of Crown land in water power reserve, control areas and licence areas must conform to the above or must not be required for water power purposes. Approval for development and use is required from the Manitoba Natural Resources, Water Resources.

   e) In order to minimize surface water quality degradation, development and use of surface water resources shall not exceed the carrying capacity.

9) The plan will not restrict the Province from entering or withdrawing Crown lands for utility rights-of-way, highways, roads, drains, etc., subject to normal clearance and approval procedures.

10) Sites, structures and areas of historical, architectural and/or archaeological significance are located on Crown land. Those sites identified now or in the future shall be protected from uses and activities that would endanger them until such time as appropriate mitigative measures (restoration, excavation, etc.) are determined.

C. MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Land management and administration does not direct land planning and land allocation but it does influence land use. Where concerns of potential land use conflict can be addressed through management and administration, remedial allocations are avoided. Some of the basic management and administrative factors which apply are:

1) For Crown lands under agricultural use the following apply:

   a) The right of public access is in accordance with such acts, regulations and contracts that are in effect from time to time.

   b) Access is guaranteed to quarry lease operations subject to compensation being negotiated relative to loss of privately owned improvements.

   c) The right of the Province to enter a leased area and to withdraw lease rights on lands for utility rights-of-way, roads, etc., is guaranteed.

   d) Lands having greater than nine percent slope must be maintained in native cover or permanent forage.

   e) A buffer strip of natural vegetation from 45 to 90 metres wide must be left adjacent to all water courses and permanent waterbodies.

   f) A buffer strip of natural vegetation not less than 45 meters in width should be retained within 90 metres of all municipal and provincial roads.

   g) No wetland shall be drained or filled without approval.

   h) Topsoil and leaf mat shall not be removed.

   i) All livestock must be contained (e.g., fenced). Strips of 15 meters in width per lease can be cleared for fencelines.

   j) Merchantable timber is subject to stumpage rates if it is marketable. The Crown retains the right to issue cutting rights to the public by way of timber sale and/or timber permit to harvest timber on Crown lands. The merchantable timber is subject to the payment of stumpage rates.

2) Survey monuments defining townships, section and quarters section corners shall not be destroyed.

3) Water quality shall not be adversely affected by Crown land uses. Activities and intensive shoreland developments that discharge pollutants shall be restricted in their location and it may be required that precautionary safeguards which mitigate the adverse effects of pollution be incorporated into the development. These activities and developments shall meet Manitoba's Surface Water Quality Objectives. Shorelands shall be protected from excessive erosion which might affect water quality.

4) Activities such as dumping, excavation, clearing, cultivation, or excessive grazing which would accelerate or promote dangerous erosion or bank instability will be prohibited.

5) Activities that may cause pollution under normal operating conditions or by accident should not be permitted in the groundwater pollution hazard area unless it can be proved by adequate field investigations that the proposed activities will not cause pollution of existing or potential groundwater supply in the area.

6) Groundwater consumption should not exceed the total sustained yield of an aquifer. Wells shall be installed in a manner that will not have a detrimental effect on aquifers. Intensive development (e.g., subdivisions) and high capacity wells will be permitted only in areas where they will not cause a reduction in water supply for existing users.

7) Lakes, streams, rivers, creeks, etc., which are identified as significant fisheries habitat areas shall be protected. The use of Crown land adjacent to these waterways and particularly spawning sites and/or nursery areas shall be controlled and managed to minimize damage to fish stocks and fish habitat from siltation, nutrient loading, disturbance and water quality degradation. Manitoba's Surface Water Quality Objectives shall be used to ensure protection for end uses such as fisheries. Management of these adjacent lands shall be in accordance with approved fish habitat protection guidelines and includes but is not limited to controlling the clearing, cultivation, timber harvesting, and developing of sites to the water's edge, maintaining or creating natural vegetation buffers of varying widths as required.

8) Sewage effluent discharges shall meet provincial standards. Flows required to flush and dilute waste waters and protect fish stocks shall be encouraged.

9) Stream crossings shall not adversely affect fish habitat or populations. Where crossings may affect fish habitat, the crossing should be designed and constructed with reference to "Recommended Fish Protection Procedures for Stream Crossings in Manitoba" prepared by Manitoba Natural Resources.

IV. PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives outlined for Crown lands are basic to all areas of the Province. The degree to which these goals may be achieved or the economic or social impact they have will be determined by the amount of Crown land in a particular areas, its dispersal, its capability and suitability for use and development, present land use, demands and commitments. By sector, the goals and objectives which this plan will address are:

A. AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the principal land use and industry of rural Agro-Manitoba. It is the long-term interest of the Province to protect the agricultural industry. This means protecting not only the quality and the quantity of productive land, but protecting the ability of farmers to expand, diversify or change their operations in response to market demand. The principal goals are:

1) To protect agricultural land for present and future production and to foster growth and development in the agricultural industry.

2) To ensure conservation of the natural resources upon which agriculture is dependent.

Comment

Within the Catfish Creek Study Area there are approximately 5,875 hectares (14,500 acres) of Crown land having a high potential for agricultural production. This is about 32 percent of the Study Area. Approximately 70 percent of the area identified for agricultural production is shallow peat soil while the balance is classified as mineral soil.

There is a demand for additional agricultural lands within the LGD of Alexander to accommodate the expansion plans of the existing farmers and their families. In the past, there has been considerable growth of the agricultural industry in the Stead area.

The primary concern in the development of this area is the staging of development. In order to develop the area to its agricultural potential, drainage improvements and road access must be in place.

The development of access and generally the development of drainage infrastructure is the responsibility of the local municipal government. In this regard joint co-operation between the Province of Manitoba and the LGD of Alexander and the Winnipeg River Planning District will be required if the most efficient and fiscally sound infrastructure network is to be installed.

B. FISHERIES

The harvesting and processing of fish caught by Manitoba's commercial fishermen and the sport fishing enterprises serving residents and non-residents provide jobs, income and revenue. Additionally, the fish resource provides recreational opportunities along with the associated

income and employment benefits to the service, retail and manufacturing sectors.

In order that these income and quality of life benefits can be sustained and enhanced the Fisheries goals are:

1) To recognize the need for fisheries management that will result in the greatest long-term benefit to Manitobans and ensure survival and improvement of fish stocks.

2) To establish and maintain a viable commercial and tourist fishing industry wherein participants can earn a reasonable return on their investment and time with limited social disruption.

3) To maintain and enhance angling opportunities for Manitobans to meet existing and future demands.

4) To provide and maintain sufficient fish stocks to support subsistence fishing.

5) To minimize the loss and degradation of habitat due to other competing and non-competing resource uses and to improve degraded habitat.

Comment

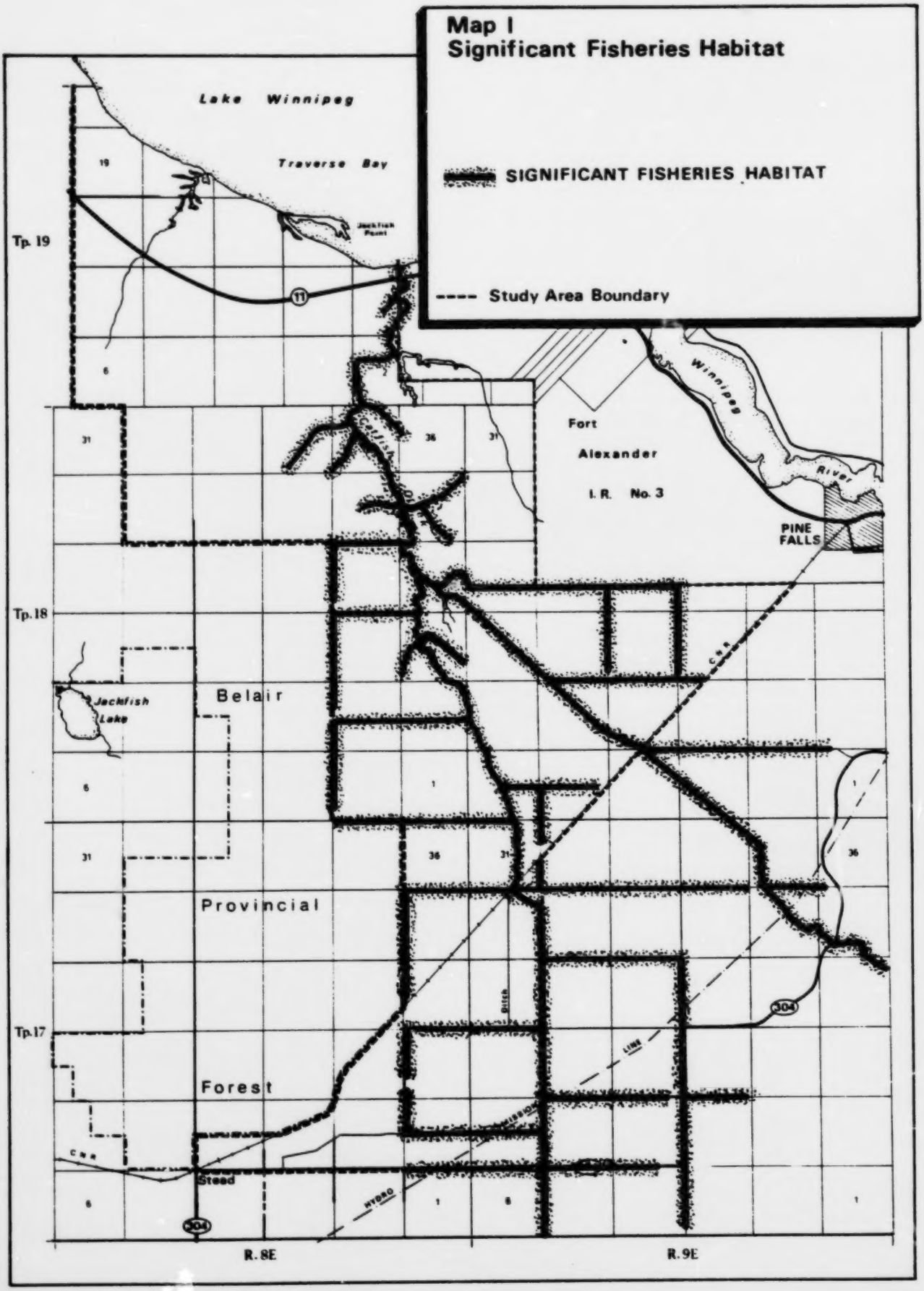
The existing fisheries resource within the Catfish Creek Study Area stretches from Traverse Bay to the upper reaches of Catfish Creek. The principal concern is the protection of the commercial fishery in Traverse Bay and the existing fish populations within the waterways of the Study Area (Map 1).

The Traverse Bay area in particular is known as a very good fishing and spawning area for walleye, pike and, possibly, sturgeon, which are present at the mouth of and upstream in Catfish Creek.

Catfish Creek is also considered significant as a spawning and nursery area. Although water levels may be very low in summer, the drainage system is used extensively each spring. Beaver dams exist in the upper reaches but spring water levels are generally considered adequate to allow fish passage. The general movement of fish up Catfish Creek has been affected by developments to this date. The channelization that has occurred in the past has altered the runoff patterns affecting both the peak and duration of flow. This has, no doubt, had significant negative impact on the success of Catfish Creek as a spawning and nursery area. Many of these drainage works are now non-operable and the situation has stabilized. A reconstruction program would reverse this and would be most undesirable.

The outstanding concern is that the quality of water and the integrity of existing fisheries habitat be maintained so that stocks of commercially valuable fish will continue to flourish.

Improper agricultural or forestry practices could lead to increased siltation of the streams. Siltation as a result of increased drainage and land clearing has a detrimental effect on water quality and on fish habitat, particularly the spawning habitat. Agricultural activity could also result in nutrient loading and enrichment of water from fertilizer applications. Both herbicides and insecticides, when used in the agricultural or forestry activities, must be carefully administered as the improper application of the chemicals could be detrimental to the water quality. Presently, the water quality concerning the local fisheries habitat is in a good condition. It is estimated that over 75 percent of these areas are unaffected by either siltation, nutrient loading or the misuse of insecticides and herbicides.


Map I
Significant Fisheries Habitat
SIGNIFICANT FISHERIES HABITAT
Study Area Boundary
Lake Winnipeg
Traverse Bay
Jackfish Point
Tp. 19
Tp. 18
Tp. 17
Fort Alexander I.R. No. 3
Winnipeg River
PINE FALLS
Belair
Provincial Forest
Jackfish Lake
Stead
C.N.R.
HYDRO LINE
304
11
R. 8E
R. 9E

C. FORESTRY

The forest industry contributes significant socio-economic benefits to the Province of Manitoba through the harvesting of Crown timber and the production of forest products, goods and services. It is anticipated that in the course of the next 20 years, the forest industry will continue to grow at the rate of about two to three percent per year. It is expected that the socio-economic benefits derived from this growth will continue at the same rate.

In order that these benefits can be achieved, Manitoba's forest land must be protected from fire, insects and disease, the most productive sites retained to produce future forests, land that is presently under forest must not be further alienated to other incompatible uses, and forested lands managed in the most intensive manner possible. More specifically, the goals are:

1) To maintain a sufficient amount of highly productive Crown lands for long-term forest management purposes. Specifically, highly productive forest lands must be set aside as provincial forests. This will allow for investment by the Province in the necessary management to ensure that such lands provide forests on a continuing and sustained basis.

2) To intensify the management levels on those forest lands to achieve a higher level of productivity than when managed under natural conditions. Intensified management will involve the establishment of new stands on cutover lands utilizing genetically superior seedling stock and utilizing the most up-to-date stand establishment techniques. Subsequent to stand establishment, the intensity of management must be continued in a stand-tending program of forest fertilization, thinning and pruning. In instances where stand establishment has been by natural means, thinning and other silvicultural techniques will be required.

3) To intensify management of lands through a higher degree of protection of stands against the ravages of fire, insects and disease through enhanced fire and pest management programs. Higher levels of utilization will be required of the forest industry so that the greatest amount of fibre produced on a given area will be converted into useful forest products.

Comment

The demand for forest products in Manitoba is forecast to increase at a rate of two to three percent annually. Product innovations, particularly with respect to hardwood utilization, may accelerate this demand. The entire forest resources of the Catfish Creek area are required to maintain the present harvest levels in the region.

The Catfish Creek study Area is located in Forest Management Unit 23 and represents about 20 percent of the forested land in this F.M.U.

Based upon Statistics Canada's value of production figures, the gross value of the timber supply from FMU #23 is approximately $9 million annually. Most of these benefits are realized within the local communities of Pine Falls and Lac du Bonnet where sawmilling and newsprint manufacture takes place.

Approximately 60 percent of the project area is productive forest land as determined by the Manitoba Forest Inventory System. Approximately 40 percent is "non-productive forest land" as it currently exists. In many instances, however, this non-productive land is so finely intermixed with productive land as to be almost inseparable with regard to development. Particularly with respect to the natural relationships of wildlife and other environmental values.

The presence of the hardwood species, Fraxinus nigra (black ash), Ulmus americanum (American Elm), and Acer negundo (Manitoba Maple) along the Jackfish and Catfish Creeks are the most significant natural stands of their kind in FMU #23. Their commercial value is substantially higher than spruce and must be recognized and protected.

The protection of the forest resources in the Study Area and the eventual designation of these resources to provincial forest status is the principle forestry concern and objective.

D. HERITAGE RESOURCES

Heritage resources are any work of nature or of man that are of interest primarily for their prehistorical, historical, cultural, natural, scientific or aesthetic value including, but not limited to an artifact, paleontological object, prehistorical or historical site, skeletal remains, natural site, structure or object. These are important because they embody information which is essential to the understanding and appreciation of our society. Therefore, they should be managed so that the information is not irrevocably lost.

The principal goals of heritage resource management are:

1) To identify, protect and interpret significant sites, structures, themes, and events in history and prehistory in order to understand Manitoba's natural and human heritage.

2) To encourage awareness and continued use of heritage structures which illustrate unique or interesting architectural form and design and/or which are connected with historically significant individuals, groups, places, events or themes in Manitoba's development.

Comment

No heritage resources have been identified within the plan area at this time. Future inventories and study of the area will undoubtably locate areas of significance and these will be recognized and protected as deemed appropriate.

E. OUTDOOR RECREATION AND PARKS

Outdoor recreation opportunities are essential to the high quality of life which Manitobans presently enjoy. These activities also make an important contribution to the provincial economy. The provincial government, in conjunction with other levels of government and individual and private enterprise, is an important provider of outdoor recreation opportunities. Present trends suggest that the need for this management function will continue at a high level during the 1980s.

Fundamental to the development of recreational areas is the need to maintain a harmony with natural and man-made environments. Important recreation and resource areas such as waterways and shorelands, prime wildlife habitat, and natural, cultural and historic areas will be identified and protected with adjacent incompatible land and resource uses controlled.

The principal goals are:

1) To provide a variety of types and amounts of outdoor recreational opportunities for the pleasure and enjoyment of the citizens of Manitoba, both now and in the future.

2) To identify and preserve rare, scarce, or special forms of recreation in Manitoba.

3) To provide suitable park areas to allow and encourage the people of Manitoba to enjoy and appreciate each distinct natural landscape in the Province.

Comment

Recreational activities occur in an extensive manner throughout the study area. Activities such as canoeing, sport hunting, fishing, wandering and the viewing of wildlife are the most common recreational pursuits.

It was determined that a significant portion of Catfish Creek's water course is of utmost importance for recreational pursuits and therefore should be protected.

There are no Class 1, 2, or 3 CL1 outdoor recreation lands in the Study Area. The Catfish Creek area is classed 6OE but is believed to be under-rated. From a recreational standpoint it is believed that the rating should be upgraded to a Class 4 with sub-classes including A, C, O, Q, and W.

This area is one of the most important recreational stream corridors for the following reasons:

1. Access to the area can occur from Highway 11 to the north and by means of the main drains and creeks to the south where channelization and drainage systems link.

2. Hunting, trapping, fishing, and viewing occur on or from this corridor.

3. Wildlife concentrations of ungulates and waterfowl are present in the corridor for either consumption or non-consumption purposes.

4. This access corridor is also considered as a mooring or harbour area for the local fishermen from the adjacent Fort Alexander Indian Reserve.

F. WILDLIFE

Wildlife species including birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians occupy various Manitoba environments. Besides its cultural and historical significance, Manitobans value and use the wildlife resource for food, income, recreation, education and science.

Wildlife is a renewable and replenishable resource. It is incumbent upon the Province, as resource steward, to ensure the provision of wildlife resources for Manitobans. Therefore, the principal goals are:

1) To ensure the provision of wildlife resources that will result in the greatest long-term benefit to Manitobans.

2) To ensure that wildlife populations and their habitats are protected from irreversible damage and that, subject to the effects of natural and approved man-made environmental changes, viable populations are maintained.

3) To maintain population levels of all wildlife species at levels sufficient to meet public demand, including but not limited to demand for: domestic use, recreational use, educational use and commercial use and to maintain, protect and enhance areas suitable for these activities.

4) To protect the integrity of the resource base and intended use of areas designated or proposed by the Province as wildlife management areas from incompatible and possibly damaging uses.

5) To mitigate where possible wildlife depredation damage.

Comment

In the Catfish Creek Study Area are lands which are significant to the production and maintenance of wildlife. Numerous wildlife species utilize the area due to the high quality habitat and relative remoteness of the area.

The land capability for ungulates is one of the highest in the Province; Class 2 and 3. All wildlife species within these areas depend heavily on the quality of habitat which provides cover for reproduction and survival.

Endangered species such as the Great Gray Owl frequent the area because of the breeding habitat and inaccessibility.

Drainage and clearing for agricultural expansion in Class 2 and 3 wildlife areas will be detrimental to existing wildlife populations. However, planned forest harvesting can result in habitat maintenance or enhancement.

High quality wildlife habitat (Class 2 and 3) and habitat essential for maintenance of endangered species (Great Gray Owl) must be protected from degradation.

V. CROWN LAND CLASSIFICATIONS

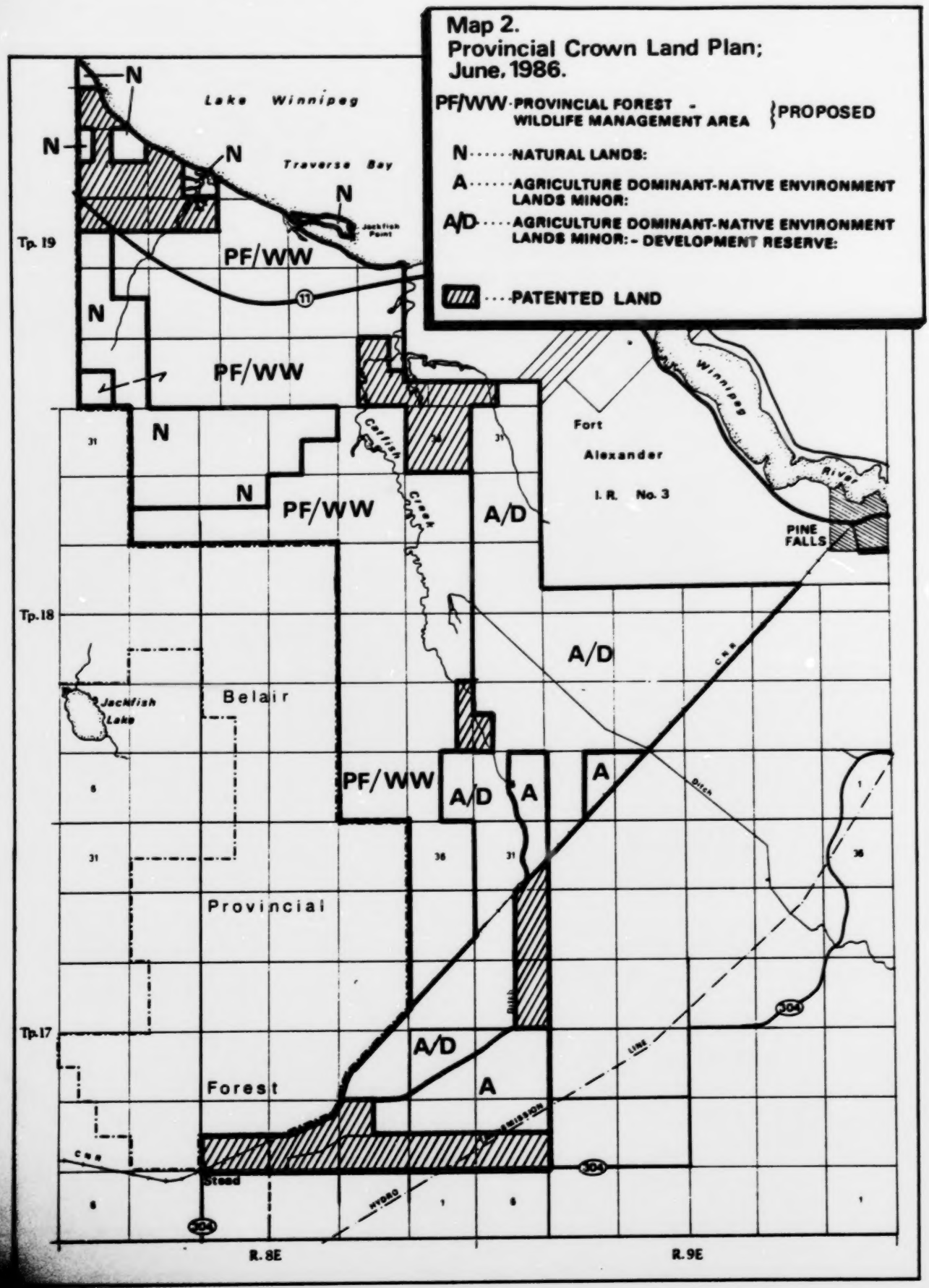
There are four classifications identified in this plan. They are (Map 2):

A. Proposed Joint Provincial Forest and Wildlife Management Area.

B. Agriculture Dominant - Native Environment Lands Minor.

C. Agriculture Dominant - Native Environment Lands Minor/Development Reserve.

D. Natural Lands.


Map 2.
Provincial Crown Land Plan;
June, 1986.
PF/WW - PROVINCIAL FOREST - WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA } PROPOSED
N ..... NATURAL LANDS:
A ..... AGRICULTURE DOMINANT-NATIVE ENVIRONMENT LANDS MINOR:
A/D ..... AGRICULTURE DOMINANT-NATIVE ENVIRONMENT LANDS MINOR: - DEVELOPMENT RESERVE:
PATENTED LAND
Lake Winnipeg
Traverse Bay
Jackfish Point
Tp. 19
PF/WW
N
Carlish Creek
Fort Alexander I.R. No. 3
Winnipeg River
PINE FALLS
A/D
Tp. 18
Jackfish Lake
Belair
Provincial
Forest
Tp. 17
A
Ditch
C.N.R.
LINE
Stead
HYDRO
304
11
31
36
6
1
R. 8E
R. 9E

A. Proposed Joint Provincial Forest and Wildlife Management Area: Classification PF/WM: As shown on Map 2.

PRESENT CONDITION:

The proposed joint Provincial Forest additions and Wildlife Management Area occupies an area of approximately 15,520 acres. It is situated, in general, adjacent to the Belair Provincial Forest and encompasses the Catfish Creek. The area identified for Provincial Forest protects the highly significant hardwood stands along the Creek and most of the softwood stands. This area protects the Class 2 wildlife habitat of Catfish Creek which has been identified as significant habitat for a number of wildlife species; ungulates, furbearers, upland game birds, waterfowl and many non-game species. Of particular note is the importance of the area to the Great Gray Owl.

The varied nature of the soils has to some degree dictated the boundaries of this joint proposal. The more useful soils, timberland and wildlife habitat are located adjacent to the Creek but are also distributed in small pockets within areas of very poorly drained organic soils. As a result, the area identified for joint designation is larger in size than would be the case if the area was considered for a wildlife management area or provincial forest separately. Because of the varied nature, the proposal includes lands of high value to both forestry and wildlife; of high value to one or the other and in a few cases of no or little value to either.

CONCERNS/OBJECTIVES:

The principal objective of the proposed joint Order-in-Council area is to provide and maintain an area for the management and provision of wood fibre to the forest industry and for the protection of the Province's wildlife resources.

As defined in the Forest Act, the objective of any Provincial Forest is "to reserve certain areas in the province for a perpetual growth of timber, and to preserve the forest cover thereon, and to provide for a reasonable use of all the resources that the forest lands contain" and to provide forest products to meet local and regional needs and demands.

The objective of the Wildlife Management Area as defined by "The Wildlife Act" is to designate Crown lands which "shall be maintained for the management and conservation of wildlife in the province."

This classification describes those lands which have been identified for wildlife habitat preservation, maintenance and enhancement and forest lands for allocation to long term timber production and stand enhancement by designation through Orders-in-Council to Provincial Forest/Wildlife Management Area.

POLICIES/GUIDELINES:

1. Provincial Forest and Wildlife Management Area - PF/WW

The management of the Provincial Forest and the Wildlife Management Area will be the joint responsibility of Manitoba Natural Resources, Forestry and Wildlife. While specific management goals and techniques may change over time, in general, the following would apply upon official designation of this area by Order-in-Council.

1a) The Province of Manitoba will maintain the Provincial Forest and Wildlife Management Area.

1b) Management agreements shall encourage a multiple use concept which considers all aspects of modern resources management.

1c) Forestry activity such as fire protection, road building, reforestation, harveting, etc., will be conducted in a manner that ensures maximum protection and enhancement of all resources and aesthetics for the area in which the activity is occurring.

1d) Special attention will be given to cutting practices around lakes, along rivers and streams, public access corridors, etc.

1e) Afforestation will also be considered for lands which do not now carry forest cover but could, including fragile, natural lands.

1f) Other general uses which are supportive and compatible with the intent of the classification will be allowable. For example, these lands can be used for hiking, cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing, nature photography, berry and mushroom picking, trapping, etc.

B. Agriculture Dominant - Native Environment Lands Minor: Classification A: As shown on Map 2.

PRESENT CONDITION:

Approximately 2,500 acres of Crown land have been identfified for general agricultural use and allocation. The area identified is located adjacent to developed agricultural lands and includes those areas presently under lease to local farmers. This area has some drainage infrastructure and a general classification of 03 for agriculture. The dominant soil type is organic and the major constraint to full utilization is the limitations imposed by excess water.

An additional consideration to the full utilization of this area is the need for additional infrastructure and the fiscal capabilities of the local municipal government to provide these services.

CONCERNS/OBJECTIVES:

In recognition that the agricultural industry is the main economic activity within the rural economy of the Planning District, suitable Crown land must be designated for general agricultural use to protect land for present and future agricultural production and expansion.

POLICIES/GUIDELINES:

2. Agricultural Dominant - Native Environment Lands Minor - A

To encourage the efficient use of Crown land for the benefit of both the local and provincial economy the following guidelines apply:

2a) These Crown lands are generally available for a full range of agricultural uses and intensity of use. Agricultural development and land clearing, etc., is allowed. However, the specific use, intensity and management will be specified on a parcel by parcel basis.

2b) Administration of agricultural leases and permits is the responsibility of the Agricultural Crown Lands Branch.

2c) Manitoba Natural Resources will consider and recommend the appropriate management of any site which special management, as it may affect resource interests.

2d) Other general land uses of the Crown land within this classification may be permitted if compatible with the basic intent of the classification.

C. Agriculture Dominant - Native Environment Lands Minor/Development Reserve: Classification A/D: As shown on Map 2.

PRESENT CONDITION:

In addition to the lands identified for immediate agricultural use, an additional 11,000 acres have been classified as an agricultural reserve. This area has been placed in a development reserve because it requires considerable infrastructure, particularily drainage, if it is to be utilized at all for agricultural purposes.

This area will be held for future agricultural expansion pending a commitment to the installation of drainage and/or alternative techniques to mitigate the physical constraints to agriculture use. This area will require careful consideration by the local government given the considerable fiscal requirements needed to install an appropriate infrastructure network.

CONCERNS/OBJECTIVES:

In recognition that the agricultural industry is the main economic activity in the rural economy of the Planning District, Crown land with agricultural potential should be designated for future agricultural expansion which recognizes the physical and economic constraints to use.

The principal concern is to prevent long term allocations to agricultural use prior to the establishment of an infrastructural framework or a commitment to a long-term agricultural development strategy for the area.

3. Agriculture Dominant - Native Environment Lands Minor/Development Reserve - A/D

To encourage the efficient and effective use of Crown land for future agricultural expansion the following guidelines apply:

3a) These Crown lands are not available for agricultural leasing or permitting pending a commitment to an agricultural development scheme for the areas so classified.

3b) The release of this area for agricultural use will be determined by the Manitoba Agriculture, Agricultural Crown Lands in conjunction with the local municipal and planning authorities.

3c) Upon release of these lands from development reserve status to general agricultural use, these Crown lands will be available for a full range of agricultural uses and intensity of use. Agricultural development and land clearing, etc., is allowed, however, the specific use, intensity and management, will be specified on a parcel by parcel basis.

3d) Upon release of these lands from Development Reserve, the administration of agricultural leases and permits will be the responsibility of Agricultural Crown Lands.

3e) Manitoba Natural Resources will consider and recommend the appropriate management of any site which requires special management, as it may affect resource interests.

3f) Other general land uses may be allowed if compatible with the basic intent of the classification.

D. Natural Lands: Classification N: As shown on Map 2

PRESENT CONDITION:

Except for a few parcels of land along the shoreline of Traverse Bay, those lands identified as natural lands are located in a block of land in the northwest corner of the study area. This block of land has little productive capability for wildlife, forestry, outdoor recreation and is of low agricultural capability, being isolated and requiring considerable infrastructure to be utilized. Total area involved is approximately 4,000 acres.

CONCERNS/OBJECTIVES:

To ensure that Crown lands with low capability for production are protected from inappropriate uses and to recognize natural land forms.

POLICIES/GUIDELINES:

4. Natural Lands - N

Management of these areas is the responsibility of the Manitoba Natural Resources. In general, the following apply:

4a) These lands are not appropriate for development because of their physical limitation. These are areas which are to remain as they occur in nature.

4b) Other general land uses will be restricted to those which are compatible with the physical characteristics of the area and with the intent of the classification. For example, these lands are available for hiking, cross country skiing, nature interpretation, trapping, etc.

VI. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The Crown land plan identifies the major classifications for Crown land. There may be other site-specific uses which are not indicated in the plan. Recognition of this fact is important as some specific allocations, (residences, for example) may not be indicated but are nonetheless protected by the very nature of the legal commitment to individuals through the leasing and permitting process of Crown lands.

Site-specific uses, that is, most land uses occurring on Crown land utilizing less than 16 hectares (40 acres), which are not shown in the plan, will be listed in Appendix 1, as considered appropriate.

VII. GENERAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

A. Plan Approval and Review

Plan approval and any subsequent approval of amendments to the plan shall be by the Provincial Land Use Committee of Cabinet.

Existing policy and procedure for plan and amendment approval require consultation with local planning authorities. Additionally, full review and approval by provincial government departments and agencies through the Interdepartmental Planning Board is also required.

This plan shall be reviewed at such time as the Provincial Land Use Committee of Cabinet or the Crown Land Classification Committee considers it necessary or when the Local Planning Authority is reviewing its Development Plan or 5 years after coming into effect of the plan or from the last review, as the case may be.

The Crown Land Classification Committee is responsible for ensuring that future plan reviews, proposed amendments and classification appeals are processed and implemented as per approved policy and procedure.

B. Land Use Implementation

The land use intent as outlined in this Provincial Crown Land Plan shall be carried out through the application of the "Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plan" prepared for the area.

Operational Crown Lands Plans are prepared, amended and approved by the Crown Land Classifiation Committee. Appeals to operational plans shall also be directed to the Crown Land Classification Committee, with the Provincial Land Use Committee being the final authority.

These Operational Plans shall:

a) be consistent with and carry out the intent of this Plan, and

b) identify in map format the permitted uses and intensity of use for the parcels of Crown land in the area.

The approval of this Provincial Crown land plan does not require the Province of Manitoba to undertake any proposal therein suggested or outlined but no undertaking or development within the plan area affected by this Crown land plan shall be carried out that is inconsistent or at variance with the proposals or policies set out in this Crown land plan.

C. Land Use Administration

The use of Crown land is administered through instruments such as leases, permits, contracts, agreements, etc., which are issued by the Crown to individuals, corporations, etc., or declared by the Crown through Orders-in-Council.

Most of the Crown land outside of Order-in-Council areas (i.e., Crown land not included in Community Pastures, Provincial Parks, Provincial Forests, and Wildlife Management Areas) is administered by the authority of the Crown Lands Act. This Act is administered by Manitoba Natural Resources, Lands, with certain specified sections being the responsibility of Manitoba Agriculture, Agricultural Crown Lands.

These contracts, leases, permits, agreements, etc., must be in conformity with this Plan and the Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plan.

Appendices

APPENDIX 1. Site Specific Crown Land Classifications

None

RECORD OF AMENDMENTS